



the RARA RAG

Published by
ROCHESTER AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION, INC.

VOL. 58

FEBRUARY, 2006

NO. 6

RARA February 3, 2006, General Membership Meeting

By Bill Kasperkoski, WB2SXY
Vice-President, RARA

Spring DX, Contests and Propagation.

In the springtime a young ham's fancy turns to DX and contests. Come to the RARA February General Membership Meeting where Chris Shalvoy, K2CS, will discuss this spring's contests and DX conditions.

We do not have time to work each and every contest, so which ones will give us the best chances to work the stations we need to flesh out our state and country scores? What contest skills do we need to hone? How do we study the DX station's operation so we can get him in our log? Earphones come in pairs, keys and mics are single units, so should we listen twice as much as we transmit? What bands will be best this spring? What times of day? What can we expect from the CW, phone or digital contests? Will our position in the sunspot cycle hurt our propagation? What antennas and power levels will do the job we need for those rare ones? Can logging programs help with the contest operations? Come at 7:30pm February 3, 2006 to the Henrietta Fire Company #1 at Lehigh Station and East Henrietta Roads in Henrietta to find the answers.

License Classes Start Feb. 4

By Peter Fournia, W2SKY
RARA Education Chairman

Our RARA amateur radio license courses and registration will start 9:00 AM on Saturday, February 4 and continue for 6 Saturdays ending March 11. The exam will be on March 18. This is a change from the usual Monday evening sessions! Each session will be 2 to 2.5 hours long.

RIT will again graciously provide the classrooms. Registration, and our first session will be at RIT's L. Slaughter CIMS building #78, room 2150. There will be signs posted at the building entrance. Information on costs, instructors and a map to the RIT campus on our website at:

<http://www.rochesterham.org/raraclas.htm>. Use the "J" parking lot.

Please spread the word. This is a good opportunity for those who could not attend Monday evenings. We also need more instructors to help share the load. Inquiries should be addressed to Peter Fournia, 585-377-0535 or Brad Armstrong 315-986-8638.

RDXA February Meeting

By Vic Gauvin, K1PY

The February 21st meeting of the RDXA will be about "G-Land & Rhombics". It will be presented by Alan Masson, K6PSP, formerly GM3PSP, G3PSP. He will be talking about operating "over there," and on using his local 20M RHOMBIC!

RaRa MEETING

February 3, 2006

7:30 P.M.

Henrietta Fire Hall #1

3129 East Henrietta Road

DX Contests & Propagation

By Chris Shalvoy, K2CS

SILENT KEYS

Allie C. Peed, K2DHA

January 6, 2006

David G. Bruegger, KC2JW

January 9, 2006

Peter P. Pagnattaro, K2MDN

December 14, 2005

Dr. Walter J. "Wedge" Watson, KC2MGJ

January 15, 2006

the RARA RAG

PUBLISHED BY
ROCHESTER AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION, INC.
P.O. Box 93333, Rochester, NY 14692-8333
RaRa Hotline (585) 442-0587
Website: www.rochesterham.org

Editor.....Dick Goslee, KG2I
24 Elaine Drive, Rochester, NY 14623 (585) 334-1762
Internet: rgoslee@rochester.rr.com

Managing Editor.....Larry Wallnau, W2ZEY
742 Stone Rd., Pittsford, NY 14534 (585) 389-1926
Internet: contax2@rochester.rr.com

Advertising Manager.....Dick Goslee, KG2I
24 Elaine Drive, Rochester, NY 14623 (585) 334-1762
Internet: rgoslee@rochester.rr.com

VOL. 58 February, 2006 NO. 6

OFFICERS:

President: Dick Goslee, KG2I.....334-1762
Internet: rgoslee@rochester.rr.com
Vice-President: Bill Kasperkoski, WB2SXY.....334-7640
Internet: wb2sxy@arrl.net
Secretary: Ed Turkowski, N2KVZ.....249-6229
Internet: n2kvz@arrl.net
Treasurer: George Masny, KA2GPJ.....377-7853
Internet: ka2gpj@arrl.net

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

George Platteter, AA2FO.....334-4488
Internet: aa2fo@localnet.com
Chuck Blocher, KC2IQV.....261-8743
Internet: kc2iqv@arrl.net
Jim Stefano, W2COP.....346-4378
Internet: w2cop@arrl.net
Bill Hopkins, AA2YV.....588-5009
Internet: whopkin4@naz.edu
Rob Brown, K2KYW.....872-2148
Internet: k2kyw@arrl.net
Ross Mazzola, KC2LOC.....247-8323
Internet: rmazzola@rochester.rr.com
Jim DiTucci, N2IXD.....426-7956
Internet: n2ixd@arrl.net

Club Historian.....Ed Gable, K2MP
Public Service Coordinator.....Keith Freeberg, N2BEL
License Testing Coordinator.....Raj Dewan, N2RD
Membership Chairman.....George Masny, KA2GPJ
Hamfest General Chairman.....Harold Smith, K2HC
Media Communications.....Larry Wallnau, W2ZEY
License Class Chairman.....Brad Armstrong, W1YX
Awards Chairman.....Greg Michels, KC2GXV
Education Chairman.....Peter Fournia, W2SKY
Web Page Administrator.....Peter Fournia, W2SKY
RARA Directory Editor.....Dick Goslee, KG2I
Club Station Trustees.....K2JD, Ed Holdsworth, N2EH
W2EOC, Brad Armstrong, W1YX

The RaRa RAG (USPS 605-440) is published monthly except July and August by the Rochester Amateur Radio Association, Inc., 24 Elaine Drive, Rochester, New York 14623. Subscription is \$5.00 per year (included in the annual membership dues). Periodicals postage paid in Rochester, NY 14692

POSTMASTER - Send address changes to The RaRa Rag, P.O. Box 93333, Rochester, New York 14692-8333. Full permission is granted for reprinting articles provided a credit line is given to the *RaRa Rag*. The *RAG* exchanges, with other organizations' publications.

RaRa Rag 2

The Prez Sez

By Dick Goslee, KG2I
President, RARA

January has been an exciting month for RARA. RAPS, the Rochester Amateur Packet Society, presented us with a check for \$770.00 to be added to the Memorial Scholarship Fund. Thanks very much. The donation is greatly appreciated. With that donation added to the fund, the Board of Directors voted to increase the value of the scholarship to \$500.00 each year. Applications for the scholarship will be accepted until April 15, 2006 for this year's award.

The ARRL has put together a "Library Book Set" that is available at a very special price of \$200.00. The total value of the books is well over \$300.00 so this is a great deal. A couple of years ago RARA donated a set to the Webster Public Library. It is now time for the next donation. At the last Board of Directors meeting it was decided to make a donation this year to another library in Monroe County. In addition the ARRL has put together a video tape set that is also very well priced. We will be donating the tape set as well. I can't announce which library has been selected as we are still in the process of making the arrangements. We will announce the choice in the next RAG so stay tuned.

The 2006 Amateur Directory will have been sent to the printer by the time this issue of the RAG is mailed. The Directory will be mailed to all current members as soon as it is back from the printer. There are a large number of new listings this year. Ed Turkowski, N2KVZ, George Masny, KA2GPJ and I took on the project during December of looking up in the FCC database all the hams living in the 144-145-146 zip codes and comparing the results to what we already had. This resulted in 323 new or changed names and addresses. We then compared these names to the current RARA membership list and sent a mailing out to each of these people. It included a copy of the RAG as well as the RARA brochure, a membership application and an information sheet about the upcoming Empire State Games. The mailing went out in late December. As of the time I am writing this we have received 8 new memberships. I expect we will see more in the near future.

The address corrections that we received back from the Post Office showed that about 20% of the hams had moved and didn't tell the FCC their new address. As you know we are required by law to keep our mailing address current with the FCC. If you have moved and haven't let the FCC know your new address, now would be a good time to do so.

That's all for this month. Stay tuned.

Sidebands: Amateur Radio in the News

By Larry Wallnau, W2ZEY
RARA Media Coordinator

Randal L. McCloy, Jr., the only survivor of the West Virginia coal mining accident happens to be a ham [KC8VKZ] radio operator. We all wish him a speedy recovery. [ARRL PR Reflector]

The *Orlando Sentinel* reported that a group of ham radio DX enthusiasts were taking a trip to the remote Peter I, a island off the Antarctic mainland. Peter I is an uninhabited volcanic island about 280 miles from Antarctica and 8,000 miles from Orlando. The goal of the group is 100,000 QSOs. According to one participant, Bill Beyer N2WB, "We're trying to achieve international goodwill." The 22-member team includes engineers, professors, doctors, and a man from San Francisco trying to set a world travel record.

On January 8th, 2006 Bob Calvert, the host of the new *Talking with Heroes* talk show, hosted a few fascinating guests. The show had soldiers, live from IRAQ calling into the show while Emery McClendon, KB9IBW, of ARMAD (Amateur Radio Military Appreciation Day) will be on the air having soldiers from the US talk to ham operators all over the world. Emery McClendon will also be a guest on the *Talking with Heroes* show and will talk about how his mission to get amateur radio involved with supporting the troops has been great and hopes to make it even better. [Amateur Radio and Soldier Support Come Together. [By Adam Forman, KA1ZFE]

In an article in *Mobile Radio Technology* [MRT Magazine], the editor, Glenn Bischoff, wrote "Over the past two years I have become increasingly enlightened about the contributions of ham operators worldwide. We have written numerous stories of how amateur radio enthusiasts went above and beyond the call of duty to provide crucial communications in the aftermath of natural disasters that rendered other infrastructures inoperable. These stories forever cemented in my mind that this often-overlooked segment of the land mobile radio industry not only deserves unwavering respect but also heartfelt admiration."

On January 8, 2006, hundreds of young people throughout the country chatted with other kids, not via the Internet or cell phone, but over the airwaves using Amateur Radio (or "ham radio") technology during Kid's Day. Now in its twelfth year, Kid's Day is sponsored by ARRL -- the national association for Amateur Radio. Many of today's scientists, radio engineers, astronauts and Amateur Radio enthusiasts became involved with science

and technology in their youth. Often this was through a relative or a neighbor that took the time to show them how things worked. During this event, licensed Amateur Radio operators encouraged children, young people from the neighborhood or even a local scout troop to experience the enjoyment of ham radio firsthand. "Getting kids on the air is an enjoyable experience for everyone involved." says Mark Spencer, WA8SME, of the ARRL's Field and Educational Services. According to Spencer, "To make it a productive experience we try to keep it simple. Contacting rare foreign locations is fun, but local, quality contacts often work better and in most cases make a more lasting impression." [ARRL PR Reflector]

Use it or lose it? Barring an outpouring of "compelling arguments to the contrary," Industry Canada will reallocate the 220-222 MHz portion of 220-225 MHz. This reallocation will be from the Canadian amateur service to the mobile and fixed services. Under the provisional reallocation, which will take effect January 25, the amateur service will be allocated the 219-220 MHz sub-band on a secondary basis. Additionally, the amateur service may be permitted use of 220-222 MHz "in exceptional circumstances on a secondary basis to assist in disaster relief efforts." [ARRL Letter]

Romney Revisited: Even though Massachusetts Governor Mitt Romney put down amateur radio [see January *RaRa Rag*, p. 4], the town of Walpole received a \$12,000 grant to purchase mobile communications equipment for emergency preparedness. Walpole encourages the help of hams and wants to reinforce ham radio E-Comms. [Daily News]

MCLEPC Meeting

By Bill Kasperkoski, WB2SXY
Vice-President, RARA

Monroe County's next Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) will meet on February 8, 2006 at 8:30 AM in the Office of Emergency Preparedness, Suite 200, 1190 Scottsville Road. This meeting is open to the public and is well attended by members of the Emergency Community and First Responders: Fire, Police, EMS and HAZMAT. Please sign in as an amateur radio guest. Coffee and doughnuts are provided. Similar notices from other agencies regarding amateur radio related services are welcomed and can be published by the RARA Rag.

March Rag Deadline
February 10, 2006

RaRa Rag 20 Years Ago, February 1986

By Ed Gable, K2MP
RARA Historian

The meeting for February was announced as Home Brew Night. Program chairman Dick Goslee, K2VCZ, has added an element of competition by offering a dinner gift certificate to the first prize winner. Meetings at this time were held at the 40/8 Club on University Avenue across from Gleason Works.

Ed Kohl, WA2UBD, reminded readers of the 2nd annual RaRa Winter Funfest held at Mendon Ponds Park. A full day of good food, hot chili, a nice wood fire, skiing and sledding and my favorite, the dessert baking contest (!!!), awaited all for the sum of \$2.00. Ed Holdsworth, N2EH, reported on the start of the Spring Code and Theory classes that were run at the Club Station site at 111 Westfall Road. At that time the Tech/General theory instructor was Ed Gable, K2MP, with Bud Young, WA2UGE, doing the 13 wpm code. The Novice instructor was Ed Holdsworth while Russ Foster, NE2B, cranked out the novice code practice. Entry level cost, including all books and supplies, was twelve dollars.

Keith Freeberg, N2BEL, wrote in this issue regarding the status of the RaRa Field Day committee, or rather lack of same. Keith encouraged anyone interested to come forward and start planning now before the annual June event. The Rochester Radio Repeater Association announced that their meeting will have the subject *The Future of Public Service Communications* presented by Len Gessin, WA2ZNC. Len spoke on the hardware located up on Cobbs Hill and how it is changing to keep pace with technology.

With regret it was announced that Linwood F. Stewart, WA2CJL, and Howard A. Parmalee, K2INV, became silent keys. From the Want Ads you could buy a Collins 75S3-B receiver from Ollie, K2BBK. A long term advertiser was Commercial Communications of Lancaster, New York.

Rochester Hamfest
June 2-3-4, 2006

RaRa Hotline
(585) 442-0587
24 hours a day

RaRa Rag 4

Antique Wireless Museum Plans for 2006

By Ed Gable, K2MP
Curator, AWA Mesuem

Secluded in beautiful downtown Bloomfield, New York, is one of this area's treasures, especially for radio Amateurs and vintage radio enthusiasts. The Antique Wireless Association Electronic Communication Museum is one of the world's oldest and largest organizations dedicated to the history of electronic communication. With a collection valued at over one million dollars, this museum displays artifacts covering the telegraphic period, into telephones, radio and wireless, television, transistors, cellular technology and into the most modern digital communications era.

The visiting radio amateurs especially enjoy the only opportunity to key an actual 1914 one kW rotary spark gap transmitter. You won't forget that, I promise. The hallmark of this award winning museum is to have as many working displays as possible. How about a functioning 1929 mechanical television set for example. Please see the museum web-site at www.antiquewireless.org.

The AWA Museum is proud to be a New York State Chartered Museum and is organized as an educational corporation with 501(c)3 status. For the past eight years the museum Curator has been Ed Gable, K2MP/W2AN. Ed is a noted radio historian and has recently been honored with two international awards for the preservation of radio history and for advancement in the history of television.

The museum is operated by volunteers interested in history and who enjoy working with and sharing their love of old radio. Volunteers work on artifacts, work on documenting the collection, act as museum guides and many other exciting and fun duties. The museum currently has openings for volunteers in several areas, especially those wishing to spend a few hours each year to act as docents for the museum. This isn't work! Acting as a museum guide, training is provided, is one of the most enjoyable ways you can spend a Sunday afternoon. If interested, please contact the Curator at (585) 392-3088, or egable@rochester.rr.com.

For Sale:

AOL Receiver / Scanner. Model AR-2002. Continuous receive 25-550 and 800-1300 MHz, not Blocked; 20 memory channels; manual, New, in original box. \$225. Contact Irv Goodman, AF2K, (585) 671-4430 or af2k@juno.com

Ham Radio at RMSC 2005

By Peter Fournia, W2SKY
RARA Education Chairman

We exhibited amateur radio at the Rochester Museum and Science Center's annual Holiday Science and Technology Fair on December 27, 28 and 29. Technical organizations are invited to exhibit and excite young people about science and technology. This was RARA's 8th consecutive year and it is done with participation from other area clubs, particularly RDXA, Kodak ARC and Xerox ARC. Over 1000 people saw the display. Pictures of this year's displays are on the RARA website at:

<http://www.rochesterham.org/RMSCdecShow.htm>

Ham items displayed:

Our HF radio was an IC741 transceiver from XARC. Unfortunately building construction did not let us use the usual roof mounted dipoles. Consequently, we used an R7000 vertical antenna mounted only 5 ft. above the ground and 15 ft from the side of the museum. This adversely affected our signal. Band propagation was also poor so we made fewer than 10 HF QSO's.

We had the usual hands-on displays. An electromagnetism series of exhibits consisted of magnets, a magnetic levitation top, and a compass with coil wrapped around it and a small hand crank generator connected to a galvanometer. These items stimulated discussions about generators, motors and the mag-lev trains used in China, Japan, France and Germany.

The radio coaches siren-oscillator was used to introduce Morse Code and the RC principals of generating an audio tone. The tone was changed by shunting a resistor on the pwb with the person's finger or with a photodiode. Morse Code fascinated most young children. They were shown N2BNE's code machine where they could type out a message on the keyboard and a ham decoded it.

We also had a laptop that displayed ISS and other satellite orbits. Occasionally PSK, MFSK15, SSTV and Pactor audio files were played to demo HF digital modes.

Participants:

Nine different hams participated with the HF station. They were W2NED (HF station leader), AF2K, AA2YV, K2MP, N2CK, WA2NFY, WY7Q, WA2UEQ, K2OID and WA6UCY. Additionally, five hams participated with the hands on displays. They were W2SKY (display leader), N2BNE, N2BEL, K6TTH, and KB2ZFI.

We operated only 3 of the 4 days. We had ample coverage only half of the time. We really need 4

people at all times in order to handle the public and give volunteers a break. Three people: N2BNE, W2NED and W2SKY served over 3 three hour shifts.

Next Year?

We expect to do the same or more next year. Hopefully we can again use our HF dipole antennas on the museum roof. I also hope we can get your support to increase the public exposure to ham radio. We need people who can specialize in different radio modes such as: APRS, IRLP, ECHOLINK, ATV, WiFi, airplane control, etc. Even one 3-hour session would be great.

This is one of the best opportunities we have for public exposure to impress people with ham radio. Let's pull together the type of display that will show the real power of ham radio. We need more participation from the ham community. Please sign up next December via the RARA Rag, meeting or website.

New Hams & Upgrades

By Raj Dewan, N2RD
RARA VE Team Leader

There are news calls in the air. If you hear KC2PAL or KC2PAK on the air, congratulate and welcome Shauni and Katy, respectively. They got their first ham ticket after passing exams administered by RARA Volunteer Examiners. Larry Flaitz, KC2OTX and Chris Kemp, KC2NPJ upgraded to Extra. Congratulations to all.

Bill Gibson KB2CHD, Dick Goslee KG2I, and Allen Skiles N2VY ably assisted in the exams. These upgrades and the new licenses would not possible without their help and volunteerism. Kudos and thanks to the volunteers.

February Calendar

- 3 - RaRa Meeting - 7:30 PM - Henrietta Fire Hall, 3129 East Henrietta Road
- 9 - RaRa Board of Directors - 8:00PM-RIT Bldg-9, Room 3119
- 10 - RVHFG - 7:30 PM, monthly meeting at Ogden Town Hall, 269 Ogden Center Rd.
- 17 - RRRA - 8:00PM, monthly meeting, Pittsford Town Hall (basement meeting room)
- 18 - RaRa VE Testing session - 10:00AM Bldg-9 Room-3139 RIT Campus, Henrietta
- 21 - RDXA - 7:30 PM, monthly meeting at Gander Mountain, Jay Scutti Blvd, Henrietta
- 23 - BARK - 7:00 PM monthly meeting at Bob Rachow, N2WY, 1140 Peck Rd., Hilton

Empire State Games – 2006

By Keith Freeberg, N2BEL
Public Service Chairman

The Empire State Games present an opportunity to train for multi-day, real time situations at multiple simultaneous locations. Since there are competitors and spectators from all six regions of the state, this event will be an excellent way to confirm the skills you already know and build the skills you need. This will be an opportunity to show just how seriously we take our avocation and our commitment to using our skills to serve our community while fostering the respect you know you deserve as a communicator.

Perhaps because we are often referred to as 'Amateur' Radio Operators many unenlightened folks interpret that as meaning 'un-professional' when all it really means is that we are not allowed to accept payment for our services. With the large number of local and state officials that will be at the Games, this will be a prime event to demonstrate our excellent and quite 'professional' communications skills.

Nearly six thousand athletes will compete in twenty-eight different sports over a four-day period. In addition, fifteen to twenty thousand spectators will watch these US Olympic qualifier events. The sheer number of sports venues and level of competition predict there will be a need for at least a hundred Amateur Radio Operators over the four days of the Games.

We fully expect there will be real medical emergencies and issues of a time sensitive nature to be handled during the Games. Ham Radio is the accepted and necessary link to medical and issue resolution for all events.

What does it take to get involved? A two-meter or dual band HT with spare batteries will be your essential communication tool. However, a very basic "Go Kit" is a necessity for those working the events. We can talk about suggested items for the "Go Kit" when we talk directly. It really is fast and easy to put together.

There will be lots of amenities available to the Amateur Radio Volunteers. You will be supplied a uniform at no cost, food, your name in the Souvenir Book, the respect of the officials and much more. Plus, if you sign up early, you WILL have the widest choice of sporting events and time slots to choose from.

How do you sign up? You can contact any member of the Local Communications Committee for forms or go to the RaRa website to download and print the signup sheet. The website is:

<http://www.rochesterham.org/EmpireStateGames2006.htm>

Local Communications Committee Members with signup sheets; Keith Freeberg (254-0722) or Ed Turkowski (edturk@gmail.com) Sign up today! Be a part of the largest public service event in the state and one of the largest in the nation!

Scholarship Increased for 2006

By George Masny, KA2GPJ
Treasurer, RARA

Thanks to a generous donation to the Memorial Scholarship Fund by the Rochester Amateur Packet Society, (RAPS), the Board of Directors has voted to increase the value of the Scholarship to **\$500.00** each year. The Scholarship is available to a student attending College. The "Rochester Amateur Radio Association Memorial Scholarship" was established with generous donations made in memory of A. Leland Zwack, W2WPF, William Buchan, W2OMV and William Resch, K4VOS. The scholarship is available to any licensed Amateur Radio operator who is or will be pursuing any degree of Associate level or higher in any accredited school beyond high school. The individual must be a member of RARA and a resident of New York State. The scholarship is for one individual in one year, but the recipient may reapply for subsequent years. Previous winners of the Scholarship include Kellie Gauvin, KB2CHC, (01), Kristy Dibelka, KC2GKE, (02) John McIntyre, KC2JSJ, (03 & 04), and Alexander Roszbach, KC2JUN (05).

Applications are due no later than April 15th. The RaRa Board of Directors and Scholarship Committee will make a final decision by May 15th. The actual award will be presented at the annual RARA Hamfest Banquet held June 2, 2006.

Applications for the scholarship may be obtained at RaRa general meetings, by mail at P.O. Box 93333, Rochester, NY 14692-8333 or by calling the RaRa phone at 585-442-0587. Additional information and a copy of the application is available on the Rochester Amateur Radio Association web site at:

<http://www.rochesterham.org/scholarship.htm>, or from one of the officers.

Donations may be made to the Scholarship Fund in memory of W2WPF, W2OMV, K4VOS or any other silent key, or if you would just like to make a donation to the fund, it should be sent to: Rochester Amateur Radio Association, Inc., Memorial Scholarship, P.O. Box 93333, Rochester, NY 14692-8333. All donations are "Tax Deductable".

From the VP, of RRRA

By Brad Allen, KB2CHY
Vice-President, RRRA

Ringin in the new year, the RRRA will hold it's "Gadget Night" started last year by our now president, Jim DiTucci, N2IXD. This is the night you bring something new, something old, something you built, borrowed or bought. Come and tell us how it makes your hamming, shop usage or whatever better for you. Our January meeting will be held on the 20th at 8:00PM.

We hope to start work on some upgrades to the 88 repeater late this month along with closing the deal for space on Frontier's towers for N2HJD repeater. Keep an ear on the system. We will announce when things will be happening.

Our February meeting will be on the 17th of February at 8:00PM, Pittsford Town Hall. The subject for the evening will be announced at a later date due to confirming it up. Keep an ear on the repeater and an eye on the internet site <http://www.rrra.5u.com>.

As I stated in an earlier Rag, RRRA is going to be the main communication link for the Empire State Games this summer. If you are interested in this activity, please contact Keith Freeberg. His info is elsewhere in this RAG. We are having meetings with the committee from NYS games to get things coordinated for this huge event. RRRA is working on a portable voting link for the 88 repeater to help with hand held issues at venue locations.

Last but not least, please join RRRA. We are in need of stepping up the membership this coming year. We now have the ability to do more activities that we have not been able to do in the past. How about that Hamfest we have been trying to put together. Let's put some time aside for the club this year and make it happen. See Max Kessler, N2MXD for details.

That's all for now...I will not be at the meeting on the 20th due to previous engagement. Have a nice gadget night and hopefully I will see you in February....

Dying to Present?

By Bill Kasperkoski, WB2SXY
RRRA Vice-President

So far this year we've had presentations at the RARA General Membership meetings on a variety of topics. Some of these have been about Radio Youth Programs, Public Service, Public Safety, Upcoming Major events and of course Ham Radio Topics !!

If you would like to see a particular program, let me know. Also, if you would like to present a particular topic, please let me know. You may have a topic related to ham radio that you have been dying to see or present, and the only way we can know about it is if you tell us.

You're not afraid of a microphone (or cw key) so get up in front of our Friday night friendly audience gathering and let everyone know your passion about your radio topic. Send an email to wb2sxy@arrl.net or call 764-0312 and leave a message.

FCC ZIPS THROUGH VANITY APPLICATION BACKLOG

Once the FCC resumed processing Amateur Radio vanity call sign applications in early January, its Wireless Telecommunications Bureau (WTB) blazed through the backlog.

A total of 990 vanity applications piled up in the queue after the FCC suspended vanity processing September 23. The WTB dispatched them in fairly short order. An initial batch of 121 grants Friday, January 6, was followed by 195 more the next day. Apparently confident by then that the system was working okay, the FCC let loose the remaining 674 vanity grants Tuesday, January 10. During the vanity hiatus, applications appeared with a "Y--application has problems" flag in the Universal Licensing System (ULS)

<http://wireless.fcc.gov/uls/>, prompting some concern on the part of those who checked their applications' status. The WTB reportedly applied the "Y" status to prevent the system from running the entire backlog at once. The WTB halted vanity processing last fall after realizing that filing deadline extensions for licensees in certain states affected by hurricanes Katrina and Rita applied to Amateur Radio's two-year "grace period" and could impact the vanity system. FCC spokesman Tracy Simmons told ARRL this week that the WTB now is processing current vanity call sign receipts. It typically takes approximately three weeks from the time a vanity application is submitted until a call sign is issued. The current vanity call sign fee is \$21.90 for the ten-year license term.--some information from Fred Maia, W5YI

from ARRL Letter, Vol 25, No. 2

**RaRa Memorial
Scholarship
Application Deadline
April 15, 2006**

FCC INVITES COMMENTS ON LEAGUE'S "REGULATION BY BANDWIDTH" PETITION

Comments are due by Monday, February 6, on the ARRL's Petition for Rule Making that asks the FCC to regulate the amateur bands by necessary bandwidth rather than by mode. The petition, designated as RM-11306, recommends what the ARRL calls "a shift in regulatory philosophy" to encourage and enable development and refinement of digital techniques and advanced technologies. "This petition seeks for the Amateur Radio Service the flexibility to experiment with new digital transmission methods and types to be developed in the future while permitting present operating modes to continue to be used for as long as there are radio amateurs who wish to use them," the League said in its petition, filed November 14. The ARRL says the changes it suggests also will update the FCC's rules and eliminate the need for "cumbersome procedures" to determine whether a new digital mode is legal under Part 97.

The next step in this proceeding would be either a Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM) or a dismissal of the League's petition. An NPRM would kick off a further round of formal comments. For the rules to take effect, the FCC would have to issue a Report and Order putting the changes into place and setting an effective date. The ARRL is asking the FCC to replace the table at §97.305(c) with a new one that segments bands by necessary bandwidths ranging from 200 Hz to 100 kHz.

Unaffected by the ARRL's recommendations, if they're adopted, would be 160 and 60 meters. Other bands below 29 MHz would be segmented into subbands allowing maximum emission bandwidths of 200 or 500 Hz or 3.5 kHz, with an exception for AM phone.

* 200 Hz would permit CW "at all speeds that human operators can decode" as well as PSK31.

* 500-Hz bandwidth would accommodate RTTY and data modes and possibly some new image modes.

* 2.8 kHz would remain the bandwidth for 60-meter operation on USB.

* 3.5 kHz would accommodate SSB and digital telephony, image, high-speed data and multimedia.

* 9 kHz is the ARRL's recommendation for double-sideband AM.

* 16 kHz is "a reasonable compromise bandwidth" to continue to permit analog FM voice, data, digital voice and multimedia at 29.0 to 29.7 MHz.

RaRa Rag 8

* 100 kHz, now permitted for RTTY and data in bands above 420 MHz, should be allowed starting at 50 MHz, with the exception of 50.0-50.3 MHz and 144.0-144.3 MHz to allow digital multimedia and high-speed meteor scatter work.

The ARRL says the Part 97 changes it's proposing constitute a balance "between the need to encourage wider bandwidth, faster digital communications and the need to reasonably accommodate all users in crowded bands." Conceding that its regulation-by-bandwidth regime would place increased responsibility on the amateur community to establish workable, accepted band plans, the League has expressed confidence that such an effort would be successful.

ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ, has discussed the subject of regulating by bandwidth in three "It Seems to Us . . ." QST editorials: "Regulation by Bandwidth" in September 2004, "Narrowing the Bandwidth Issues" in April 2005 and "Self Regulation" in October 2005.

"This petition does not favor one mode at the expense of another," the ARRL concluded in urging FCC adoption. "It merely allows expansion of the repertoire of options that amateurs may pursue compatibly."

A copy of the ARRL petition is on the ARRL Web site

<http://www.arrl.org/announce/regulatory/bandwidth/Bandwidth-Minute-64-Petition-FINAL.pdf>

From ARRL Letter, Vol 25, No.2

RaRa Amateur Radio License Testing

**3rd Saturday each
Month, Sept – May**

**Registration – 10:00AM
Testing – 10:15AM**

**Room 3139, Building 9
(Park in Lot J)**

**Rochester Institute of Technology
1 Lomb Memorial Drive
Rochester, NY 14623**

**Contact Raj Dewan, N2RD to reserve
space. Call (585) 703-4003 or e-mail
n2rd@arrl.net**

RARA Memorial Scholarship

**Application Deadline
April 15, 2006**

**Support The
Hams That Advertise in
the "RAG"**

Floral Memorials

**Cemetery Plot Beautification
& Maintenance**

**Gravesite Plantings at
All Local Cemeteries**

585-905-9300

**Also Available: Seasonal Wreath
& Special Occasion Bouquets
Remembrances
Operated by KA2GPJ & XYL**

**Automobile Accidents
Real Estate
Wills and Estates
Social Security Disability**

**Snyder and Snyder, Attorneys
Sherwood M. Snyder, W2KFU
Paul I. Snyder**

**No Charge for Consultation
183 E. Main St, Suite 1024, Rochester
(585) 546-7258**

Ayers Printing

2380 Brighton Henrietta Townline Road
Rochester, New York

(585) 424-6080

Monday-Friday 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

*You name it ... we can print it
one color ink, two colors,
4 color process, and, color copies.
printing the RaRa Rag since 1999*

JAMISON EYE CARE

**90 Erie Canal Drive
Rochester, NY 14626
(585) 225-5883**

Richard R. Jamison, M.D. WA2QDP

Michele A. Jamison, M.D.

EYE EXAMS GLASSES

CATARACT LASER

GLAUCOMA

Huge Savings

***Dental, Vision, Prescription
& Chiropractic***

Household Plan \$ 19.95 / Month

Singles Plan \$ 11.95 / Month

Your Independent Broker:

MARYKAY VESCO, KC2DPG

Kc2dpg@bluefrog.biz

(585) 381-7773

"America's # 1 provider of Discounted Benefits"

ROCHESTER HAMFEST

June 2-3-4, 2006

LET US HELP YOU PATENT YOUR INVENTION

HOWARD J. GREENWALD, P.C.

**349 West Commercial Street, Suite 2490
East Rochester, New York 14445
Telephone: (585) 387-0285**

Howard J. Greenwald, AB2HD, Patent Attorney
Garold F. Fritz, Ph.D., Patent Agent, Physicist
Peter J. Mikesell, Ph.D., Patent Agent, Chemist
Tracy P. Jong, Patent Attorney

NO CHARGE TO RaRa MEMBERS FOR CONSULTATION

GLENWOOD SALES

594 HAGUE STREET
ROCHESTER, NY 14606

HOURS:

M-F 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM
SAT 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

PH: (585) 328-1600
FAX: (585) 328-3630

**ELECTRONIC
COMPONENT PARTS**

(NEW AND NEW SURPLUS)

- LARGE SELECTION
- HIGH QUALITY
- LOW PRICES
- IN-DEPTH INVENTORY
- WEEKLY SPECIAL BARGAINS

WE STOCK THE FOLLOWING:

AC CORDS
CAPACITORS
COAX CABLE
CONNECTORS
DIODES
ENCLOSURES
FANS
FUSES
FUSEHOLDERS

IC'S
LAMPS
LED'S
MOTORS
POTENTIOMETERS
RELAYS
RESISTORS
SCR'S
SHRINK TUBE

SOLDER
SWITCHES
TRANSISTORS
TRIACS
TRIMPOTS
VARIABLE CAPS
WIRE/CABLE
ZENER DIODES
LOTS MORE

FULL LINE DISTRIBUTORS FOR

NTE
PRB
GC/THORSEN
SL WABER
WAHL

Replacement Semi's
VCR Belts & Accy
Tools & Chemicals
Outlet Strips +
Soldering/Drilling
Tools & Accy

TYTON
PROTEK
MUELLER
GOLDSTAR
PALADIN

Cable Ties
Test Gear
Test Leads
Test Gear
Tools

TRY GLENWOOD FOR ALL YOUR COMPONENT REQUIREMENTS

Search our Inventory at "WWW.GLENWOODSALES.COM"